Cleaning of polluted rivers

*253. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the major rivers in the country which are polluted;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to clean some of those rivers;

(c) whether any major river in Orissa has been selected for cleaning;

(d) if so, whether the Brahmani and the Rushikulya rivers have also been selected for the purpose; and

(e) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. According to a study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, polluted stretches of 22 rivers covering 141 towns in 14 States were identified and have been included for pollution abatement under the National Rivery conservation Plan which includes the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II. Work on the National River Conservation Plan has already begun.

(c) to (e) Under the National River Conservation Plan, Cuttack on Mahanadi and Talcher, Dharamsala and Chandbali on river Brahmini have been taken up for pollution abatement in Orissa. According to the survey of the Central Pollution Control Board, river Rushikulya is not polluted and has, therefore, not been included under the National River Conservation Plan. On the basis of the pre-feasibility reports prepared by the State Government, a provision of Rs. 11.87 crores has been approved for projects in these four towns.

भारतीय क्रिकेट टीम का चयन

*254. **श्री शिव चरण सिंह:** क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही के श्रीलंका दौरे के लिए भारतीय क्रिकेट टीम के चयन हेतु चयन समिति की बैठक से पूर्व भारतीय क्रिकेट नियंत्रण बोर्ड (बी०सी०सी०आई०) के अध्यक्ष ने समिति को संबोधित कर चयन को प्रभावित करने का प्रयास किया था; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका क्या औचित्य था?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री एस०आर० बोम्मई): (क) भारतीय क्रिकेट कंट्रोल बोर्ड द्वारा दी गयी सूचना के अनुसार यह बात सच नहीं है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Increase in the production of rice

*255. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase rice production by 2000 AD;

(b) if so, the total quantum of rice produced by different rice growing States during the last three years;

(c) the target set by different States for producing rice by 2000 AD;

(d) whether Government had a proposal to double rice production in Orissa by 2000 AD; and

(e) if so, the strategy adopted to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government propose to increase productivity and production of foodgrains including rice in the coming years.

(b) The quantum of rice produced by different rice growing States are given in Statement.

(c) to (e) Targets for rice production for IX plan period are not yet finalised.